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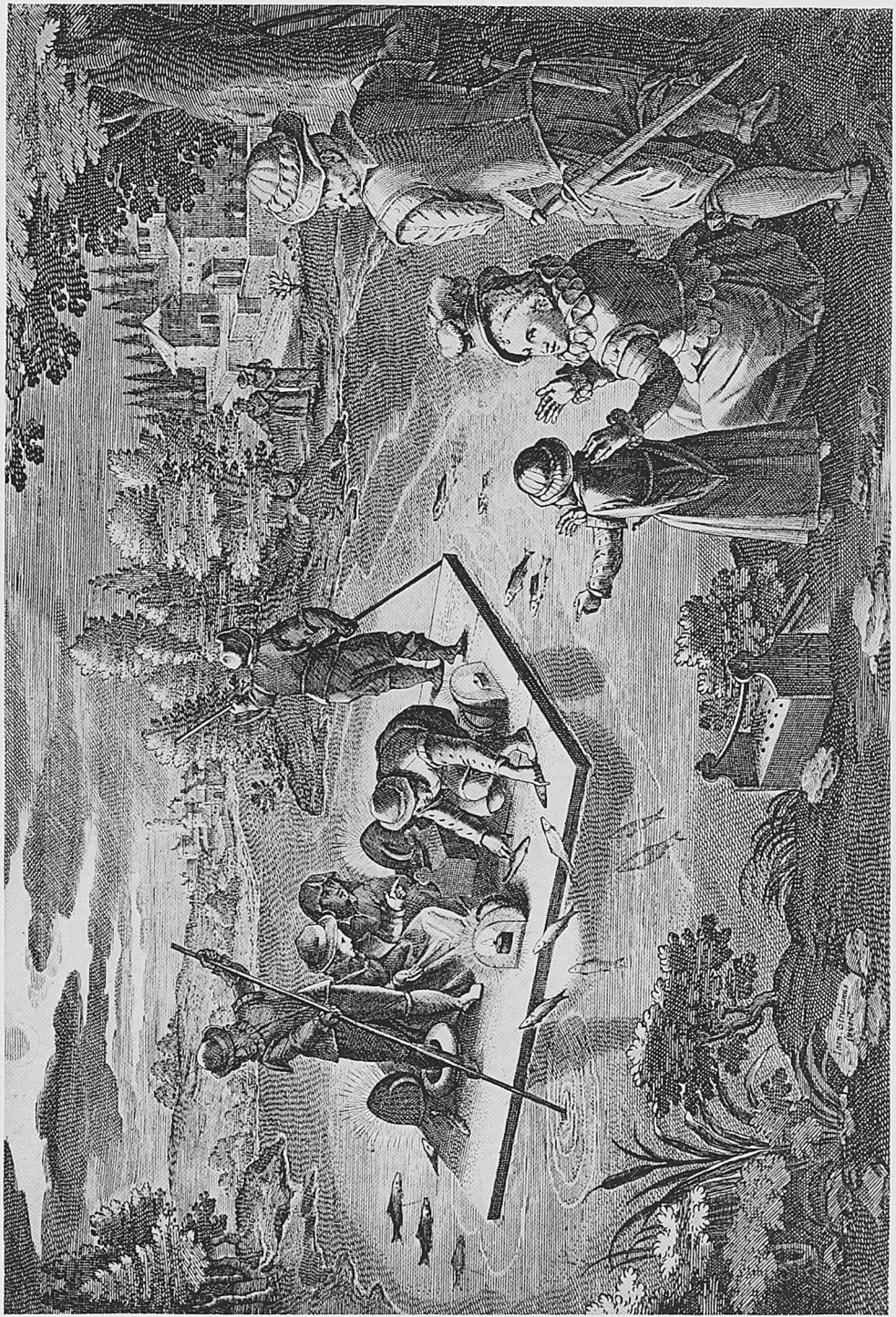
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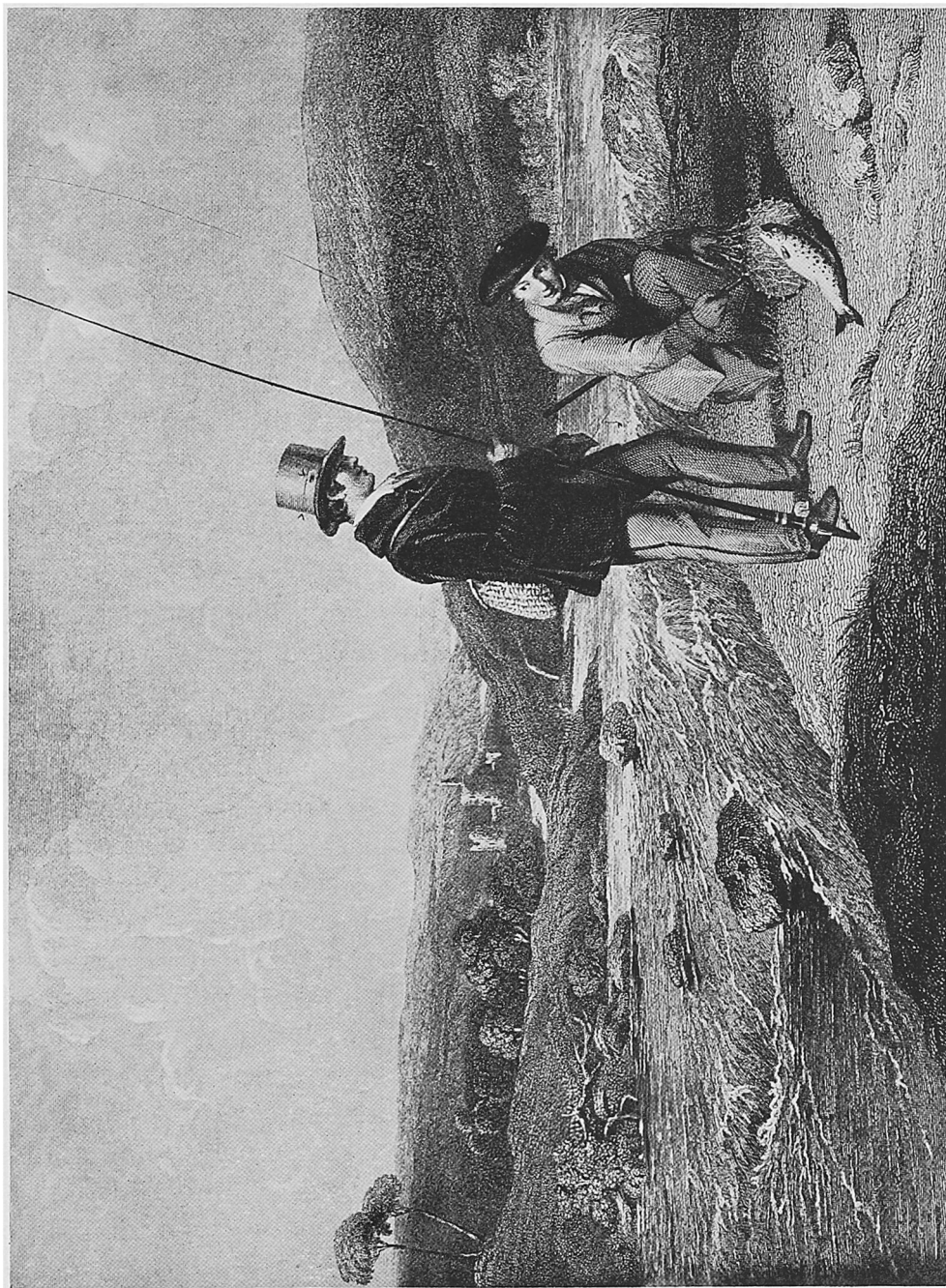


FISHING AT NIGHT XVI<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

THE history of ichthyology began with Aristotle (383-322 B. C.) and for a long time seemed to have come to an end with him. He recorded many facts concerning the structure and habits of the fishes of Greece, and so acute was his observation that, in almost every case, it bears the closest modern test. He knew about 118 species—a small number—and he failed to realize their need of classification. His names are those of the local vernacular supplied him by fishermen.

For nearly 1800 years Aristotle's words were copied by scholars and by them extended, not scientifically, but by the addition of fabulous stories. Theophrastus wrote on the fishes that may live out of water. About 400 A. D., "a pleasing little poem on the Moselle, setting forth the merits of its various fishes," was written by Decius Magnus Ansonius. The "De Piscibus Marinis" (1554-55) of Guillaume Rondelet described 244 species and "the various fables previously current are subjected to severe scrutiny."

Nevertheless in the large series of plates in the "Venationes" of Stradanus (about 1566) there is found the picture opposite, which a Latin legend under it describes as follows: "*Ludicra piscandi quaedam ars est: vespere mensae insistit rutila fulgenti lampade cantus piscator, placidas in stagni ant fluminis unda lumen pisciculas adeuntes decipit astu.*" Very freely translated this signifies just what the picture shows: Some people at night are on a floating table top on which they have placed bright lamps, that lure the little fish and cause them to jump up on the table, whence, it may be supposed—though the inscription is silent on this point—they are transferred to the frying pan for breakfast.



TROUT FISHING